

From rough draft of late 1960s, probably 1969

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working day, for when the busy members of the Commission required their evening meals, the session for which they had to cancel their other obligations already made, it did receive what evidence Texas had on Oswald as a federal agent. At that session it "had" Texas, and it never stopped having them.

While I was awaiting the answer that never came from the federal government, I did have a chance to speak to Henry Wade. He is nothing like the kind of ogre the Commission makes him out. He is and looks like a plain man, disarmingly so because his countryman's appearance and manner, which are natural to him because that is what he is at heart and in spirit, ~~him~~ obscure the keen mind that makes him a successful prosecutor, with a high rate of conviction in which crimes of violence are more than usually common.

Habitually, he gets to his office on the sixth floor of the new Courts building, two blocks from Dealey Plaza, where the crime of the century was committed. He offered to meet me there any time beginning 8 a.m. ~~the~~ any morning I was there the week beginning De November 10, 1968, he is that informal. Earlier, we had been in correspondence, a correspondence here made public for the first time.

It was necessary to immobilize Henry Wade to frame Oswald, so he was immobilized. His public record of the time of the assassination is one of himself framing Oswald, but ~~that~~, too, was contrived, as I ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ learned in speaking with him.

Our meeting began with his proud discourse on the hunting prowess of the Wade family. He and his son had been in a party of 21 who had been ~~xxxxx~~ must have been deer-hunting. Of the seven bagged, the Wade's got five. The pace at which I was then and since going denied the opportunity of typing full notes on this pleasant interview with a straightforward man who, had he been able to prosecute Lee Harvey Oswald, would have changed history. But what he said is imperishably preserved in my mind.

~~On the basis of what the police had told him, he was satisfied~~

Remember, the only crime committed was a crime under Texas law alone, and he of all the public officials in the world alone was empowered to prosecute it.

I had told him of the non-existing record of his appearance before the eminences, for which he and the others had dropped everything and rushed to Washington. The party included the then-State Attorney General, Leggoner Carr, a busy man; Robert Storey, of one of the State's most prominent law firms and the Dean of Law of Southern Methodist University; and Leon Jaworski, another prominent lawyer retained as special counsel by the State. When Rankin phoned Carr, which he did as soon as he knew Carr knew of the rumors that Oswald had been a federal agent - and there was a State investigation under him, despite the best and very successful Washington effort to dull and frustrate it - all of these very busy men dropped everything, immediately, to ~~xxxxx~~ Washington~~x~~ to do what was asked of them. I was confident there had been a court reporter present, that all that was said was properly recorded.

He was, as we now know, quite right.

Like almost everyone else closely woven into the fabric of the crime and its official investigation, he has not read anything about it. Most of the Commission's lawyers, Leon D. Hubert, Jr., for example, have avoided that writing so critical of them. This is not natural. It is the lemming-like character that dominated the Commission's official functioning. Most men do keep up with what is said against me, do watch out for the requirements of their careers, especially professional men. But Hubert, who had been hired to work on the New Orleans end of the investigation - something he told me he did not know for a fact until I told him what the executive sessions recorded - he had been denied access to them - also knew nothing of the critical writing. Now Oswald had had quite a career in New Orleans. It is there he established what in the intelligence trade is called a "cover". Hubert, who had been Jim Garrison's predecessor as District Attorney and was very well connected locally, never asked himself why, with these unique qualifications, he was carefully kept away from any

part of the work for which he had been hired! He had a long and not unfriendly phone conversation the morning of Saturday November 9, 1963, when I was in New Orleans. He then agreed to spend a day with me on my return (I left the next day for Dallas). Twenty days later, true to my word, I sent him photocopies of the suppressed Executive session comments about him, gave him my schedule for returning to New Orleans, even where I would stay, very close to where he lives and teaches law. I phoned him his free day, Saturday, December 14. He had by then changed his mind. He refused to see me. There was nothing to discuss. The dialogue he had earlier conceded was a national need was no longer important.

So, history will write the epitaph for Leon D. Hubert, Jr., who teaches law but will not face the record of his own practice of it when his President is murdered and he bears his own share of the responsibility of faking the official accounting.

Henry Wade is no Leon Hubert. He is a straightforward man. He was ~~xx~~ with the Commission. He was not intimidated by J. Edgar Hoover, who tried, ~~xxxxxx~~ sending special agents to Wade with transcripts of his own record as an FBI agent during World War II in Latin America. Hoover doesn't shred his paper. He saves it for blackmail. But Henry Wade stood firm, as the public record shows, in his testimony before the Commission, in which he said it was possible for Oswald to have been a federal agent of some kind with no adequate record of it existing.

He believed, on the basis of what the police had told him, that Oswald was guilty, and he so said, publicly and wrongly, for ~~xxxxx~~ what he said ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ before Oswald was murdered, his murder being possible only because those same Dallas police made it possible, might have made it impossible to try Oswald. He was not alone in the emotional storm of the moment in his error. And he would have prosecuted - save for that murder, which also led to the creation of the Warren Commission, which could not have existed without it. We did not argue the fact. Perhaps some day he will find the time to look at the fact for himself, not through the eyes of such men as Jesse Curry, then Dallas police chief.

(By an odd quirk of the writer's fate, I had to leave this rewarding interview with Wade to keep an appointment with John Pilger, prize-winning reporter for the "London Daily Express", which has the world's largest newspaper circulation. With his photographer, my good friend, frequent New Orleans host and general credit to mankind Matt Herron, we had a date to interview Curry. The former police chief had recently left employment with Private Investigator R.E. Denham, who had been Melvin Belli's investigator in the Ruby defense, and had just moved into his new offices in the still not-quite-complete Texas National Bank Building. Nothing had changed for Curry, who, with nostalgia, looked back on the old days, when he was top cop, not chief of a bank's security. Nothing he had done was wrong, none of the many lies he told were false, none of the inconceivable things to which he had testified in any way seemed unreal to him. Nothing improbable is improbable to the man who demands what didn't happen be believed, who insists that what did happen didn't, the man who above all is responsible for the murder of Oswald and the rewriting of history that enabled.)

I asked Wade about the interrogations of Oswald. He was blunt and to the point, and, like everyone else, including Curry, said you had to know Fritz to understand it. Will Fritz was the police captain and chief of homicide November 22, 1963. My understanding of Fritz tells me that he is the man who saw to it that there was no record of any of the illegal questionings of the accused, conducted over his protests, in a way that would have been exculpatory at a trial and might have prevented a trial. I know him as the man who made notes of his interrogations, as he swore, and then destroyed them, without any official eye blinking at it. I also know him as the man who subsequently typed up a report on these interrogations which was then quite unabashedly, altered and yet was considered evidence. Fritz, as Curry and Wade make clear, has his own way of working, and he worked that way.

Wade, as prosecutor, had wanted to interrogate the prisoner. He found the conditions in Fritz's office impossible. With too many people there, with an

atmosphere that prevented any meaningful interrogation, one in which the prisoner himself could not be in the desirable frame of mind to respond or even be willing to. In his own quite and very direct way, Henry Wade painted a simple, clear picture of total chaos.

He could not question Oswald under those circumstances, with all those unnecessary people falling all over themselves. There were assorted local police there, FBI agents, those from the Secret Service and the Postal Inspector's office. Everyone but the garbage collector in that smoky space, with the over-guarded, handcuffed prisoner charged with the worst crime in the history of the country, and they were expecting him to talk?

One might be led to assume Fritz knew better, that he designed the set to close the prisoner's mouth. Henry Wade did not say or suggest this, and it may not be the case, but it fits the scenario perfectly.

What Wade did tell me, however, makes clear why Oswald had to be killed no later than he was.

"I had arranged to question him at 4 p.m. in the Decker's office", he said.

Henry Decker was the sheriff. It was into his custody that Oswald was being moved when he would be permanently closed. In Decker's care, Wade would have seen him alone, in quiet seclusion, where there would have been none of the turmoil Fritz maintained.

Wade might have expected Oswald to break down and confess. I suspect he would, with little difficulty, have established his innocence.

In any event, Wade had and still holds a positive belief, ~~and it is that he would have obtained information from Oswald~~

It is entirely contradictory to the official fiction of the assassination. He could not have been allowed to pursue it - in questioning or as prosecutor in open court.

This is how he put it in a very honest letter he wrote me October 10, 1968

"I have always felt that there was an accomplice or someone else involved".

He also said he did "not agree with all the conclusions reached by the Warren Commission".

~~Unlike~~ That November morning in his office, over strong black coffee ^{pottery} supplied by his secretary, in heavy mugs, he was more pointed. He was satisfied John Kennedy had been murdered as the result of a conspiracy. If, on the basis of what he had been told, he was convinced Oswald had been a member of it, he also was persuaded there had been a conspiracy. The federal government was determined to say otherwise, to insist the people and the world believe otherwise, and they rewrote history to do this. The Commission never had any other intent, as much of my writing proves. The opening of POST MORTEM does it for the first time from their suppressed files.

More, Henry Wade, unlike most prominent Texas Democrats, was not opposed to John Kennedy. He is one of the prominent politicians who was not unwilling to be associated with the President's name and was openly and willingly part of the official welcome to him. Unlike the mayor and other elected officials, this was not obligatory with the prosecutor. Henry Wade did it because he wanted to, not because he had to.

So, with a liking for the victim and the conviction there had been a conspiracy to kill him, Henry Wade could not be allowed to prosecute, not even to question the accused.

He wasn't.

He also believed Oswald had been some kind of federal agent, a position from which he has never retreated, despite considerable pressure. This, in itself, was more than enough to require he be kept out of the official investigation.

He was, by Oswald's murder, and by the shredding and burning of his words and those of the other Texas officials who dropped ~~xxx~~ everything to rush to Washington ~~xxx~~ at Washington's bidding and record everything they knew